

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

1905. RECEIVED.	£	s.	d.	1904. PAID AWAY.	£	s.	d.
In hand	6	19	10	Dec. Cash Receipt Book ...	0	0	6
117 Subs. at 3/6.....	20	9	6	1905.			
2 " at 21/- ...	2	2	0	Jan. Stamps and Registered			
1 " at 14/6 ...	0	14	6	Envelope ..	0	9	3
Magazines and				Feb. New Badges and Die ..	5	8	6
Sundries	0	2	3	Mar. Registered Envelopes			
Dr. Helen Webb (for				and Post Cards	0	8	6
Printing)	0	6	0	" To Miss Garnier	0	1	3
29 Badges at 3/6.....	5	1	6	" To Printing Notices ...	0	7	0
6 " at 3/9.....	1	2	6	" To Miss Allen.....	0	12	6
2 " at 4/-.....	0	8	0	Apr. To Miss Pennethorne .	0	3	0
1 Snbs. at 3/6.....	0	3	6	" To 24 Badges	4	4	0
				May To J. Holt	9	5	2
				" Stamps per Subs.	0	5	6
				Sundries ...	0	0	7½
				Sept. To J. Holt	6	7	4
				Oct. To Miss Allen.....	0	12	6
				Nov. To Miss Pennethorne .	0	3	6
				In hand	9	0	5½
	£37	9	7		£37	9	7

FOLK LORE FROM EAST ANGLIA.

"Gorgons and Hydras and Chimeras dire" are the property of the seemingly stolid Suffolk villagers. East Anglia is a corner of the world which to some extent has "got left" in the march of progress, and old superstitions die hard. Mr. G. K. Chesterton tells us to stay at home and study every-day people, and we shall not find it necessary to go among savages to glean fresh facts to add to the science of anthropology. Certainly this is the case with regard to "folk lore," for an amazing amount of belief in witches and charms may be unearthed in this part of the world. A clever woman of my acquaintance set herself to find out how much there was of it in her own little village; she had lived there all her life, and so was not "a foreigner," and when they found she was really interested, the inhabitants gave her much astounding information—a very little pressing led to the confession, "Wul, I deu chaärm. . ." There are a number of recognised white witches and wizards now in this 20th century. In one village there is a small farmer who makes quite a livelihood by charms, &c. In one instance a child was troubled with warts; celandine juice and other remedies were tried in vain, so the child was taken to an old man, and he "say suthin'," and the warts promptly disappeared. There are many "charms" still used: a frog as a charm for whooping cough; an ivy leaf off an ash tree gathered at the full of the moon will cure a boil; for jaundice cut off some of the patient's hair and bury it at 12 o'clock in an ant's nest, no one must see you do it, but when the hair disappears the jaundice will go too; for warts, *steal* a piece of meat and lay it on the wart and then bury it, and when the meat has decayed the wart will have gone. A certain village butcher leaves tiny scraps of meat about in his shop to be stolen for this purpose.

There is a great deal of belief in the "evil eye" or "overlooking." One delightful story was told by a blacksmith's wife whose husband was "a wunnerful clane man," but happening to offend a witch he became "covered wi' crapers!" However, on presenting half-a-crown to the witch the "crapers" disappeared, and they "never saw 'en agen."

Then there was the story of a gipsy who came round trying to sell eggs, but finding no market, she "owerlooked" the pig, and the pig became ill; so someone cut off a bit of the pig's tail and burnt it, with the result that the gipsy was brought back stamping and screaming at the door, unable to stop until she had removed the charm from the pig, which recovered. Another instance is given of the same thing happening to a horse, when the same countercharm was successfully tried.

There was a ghost, too, in the village, who used to sit on the wall and spin. On one occasion he helped a man who came in late one night to take off his boots; on another he appeared when a man was beating his wife, and gave him such a fright that the offence was never repeated! A useful ghost, that!

But the most astonishing thing of all was a circumstance belived by all around that a family in a neighbouring village not only had power of witchcraft, but also possessed *imps*. This family had the power of mesmerising animals. They could divert a horse and waggon from the way it should go by mere force of will; and this power was due to the fact that they kept imps in a cupboard near the fire-place; they were small and white, something like toads—and had been handed down from generation to generation, and were bequeathed to neighbours when the family died out.

Of minor superstitions there are many. No one would dream of starting to work in a fresh situation on a Saturday. If the visitor puts back his chair in its place against the wall, it is looked on as a sign he will not come again. If the clock strikes while the hymn is being sung, a death in the parish is sure to follow; also a certain deadness of sound when the bells are rung is another sign: and deaths always come in threes—two in one parish and one in the neighbouring one, or vice versa. "For years," said my informant, a very intelligent woman, "I have never known this to fail." Then if it—

"Rain afore Church,
Rain all the week,
Little or much."

These things, and many others like them, are believed in most firmly, often by the educated as well as the uneducated.

NORMANDY IN SEPTEMBER.

II.

Lisieux is a charming old town with numbers of interesting houses and a cathedral. In the latter is a Lady Chapel built by a former bishop of Lisieux as a self-imposed penance for having condemned Jeanne D'Arc.

One of the side chapels, dedicated to St. Anne, has a most beautiful beaten metal altar set with coloured stones and a fine painting of S. Anne and the Virgin.

The Church of St. Jacques contains a curious painting showing how the relics of St. Ursin were miraculously brought to the town by Delicieux. In this, as in all the Churches, there is a statue to St. Antony of Padua; round him most of the peasant folk congregate, and there are two little boxes, one for offerings and the other for "demands."

Saturday is big market day, and the square in front of the Cathedral was filled with stalls—drapery, vegetables, household pottery, cutlery, flowers, fruit and poultry and toys all mixed up together. The "con-con" is a great commodity here, being bought whole and in slices. It is like a huge green melon, and inside the colour is deep pink, almost tomato.

One wishes that the S.P.C.A. had agents abroad, for the treatment of hens, rabbits, and ducks is cruel. They are herded together, banged about on stations and market squares; frequently one saw them wriggling and bleeding from the mouth.

Before leaving Lisieux we were present at the Cathedral on the occasion of a priest celebrating his first Mass. The Altar was decked with evergreens, and the whole building decorated with coloured flags.

Pont l'Evêque is distinguished by its Church with a quaint tower, and a house dating from Willian the Conqueror—which latter we failed to discover except on a picture post card.